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Naval Reserves 'Ready' --- 'Rough Seas' Are Ahead

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By Jack Foote

The Navy's reserve units are more ready for active duty today than ever before in peacetime, but they face serious manning problems during the next several years, the Naval Reserve Association was told here yesterday.

Some 500 members of the group, holding their seventh national conference at the Hotel St. Francis, heard leaders report on personnel problems.

There were these highlights:

- Some 80,000 selected reservists have orders assigning them to specific ships, air squadrons and bases in event of a national emergency.

- This would increase the present Naval force by 40

destroyers and destroyer escorts, 11 minesweepers, and 21 air squadrons all within 24 hours.

- In addition there are more than 100,000 Naval reservists in a "lesser state of readiness" who will be in uniform within a month after a general mobilization.

On the problems troubling both active and reserve naval forces there were these disclosures:

- The Reserve Officers Training Corps program at 52 universities is threatened with sharp reduction should a proposal for voluntary college military training be adopted.

- A series of enlistment programs ending during 1962-63 may leave the Naval Reserve "in serious trouble" for enlisted men.

Six Admirals, including

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, participated in a lunch and forum in the association's second-day program.

Nimitz, who at 75 still is on a rarefied form of active duty by virtue of his experience and five-star rank, said a grave weakening of military leadership would result if the college ROTC program withers away.

A similar warning was made by Major General R. A. Palladino, an Army man who is the executive officer of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, an advisory to the Department of Defense.

The conference continues today. A luncheon co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Club will be held at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel with Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, a

Inspector General, Cen-

tral Intelligence Agency, as speaker.

At 2:30 p.m., a public demonstration of anti-submarine warfare will be held at the Masonic Temple, 1111 California street.